

New-Look Wycombe Are Robbed By Time

By "CHILTERN"

Wealdstone 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1.

A GOAL in the last seconds of injury time robbed Wycombe Wanderers of a point—and maybe the league championship — at Wealdstone on Monday night. It was scored by the Amateur Cup finalists as the referee was looking at his watch with his whistle in his mouth about to blow for time.

It was rotten luck for Wanderers. They had held on to a one-goal lead for three-quarters of the match, and had played the sort of football that set the fans singing again — surely a welcome sound to manager Barry Darvill's ears after three barren weeks.

As I say, those few minutes of injury time could have cost Wanderers the league title. The championship race is still wide open and points are becoming as precious as gold.

Wanderers tossed aside their 3, 3, 4 line-up that has gone stale on them in recent weeks, and went back to good old fashioned 2, 3, 5. . . . And how good it was to see five forwards attacking.

They looked a rejuvenated side. That old punch was back, marking and tackling was keener, and each and every member of the side played well.

Wealdstone, who beat Alvechurch, in the F.A. Amateur Cup semi-final on Saturday, were without England stars Hugh Lindsay and Charlie Townsend, but coloured player Eddie Dillsworth from Sierra Leone put in a great amount of work, filling the gaps left by the two.

A BLINDER

Wycombe skipper Bradshaw was unavailable and Roystone dropped back from the wing to right-back. Young Stuart Thompson came in at inside-right and played a blinder.

He just about covered every inch of the pitch, tackling hard, dribbling well and running with the ball as if it belonged to him. His ball control and distribution are immaculate.

The game was fast from the start, and the bare, uneven pitch was not conducive to good ball control. Both sides showed well in the first quarter of an hour, and John Maskell, who must surely catch the eye of the England selectors before long, was called on to make two fantastic acrobatic saves before Wanderers went ahead.

It was an innocuous sort of goal. Paul Bates banged the ball hard through the middle from almost the half-way line, and Keith Samuels nipped from behind the defensive barrier to steer it home with his head.

A few minutes later Thompson should have made it two, but shot wide a good pass from Barry Baker when well-placed.

Les Merrick showed well in spasms, but missed two chances, one when he ran through alone and was unable to control the wildly bouncing ball.

Bates and Samuels switched intelligently, and both played much better than in recent weeks, fighting for the ball and putting in a lot of work.

Horseman worked well as a fetcher and carrier, and half-backs Baker, Rundle and Gale all tackled well and linked well with their forwards.

Backs Roystone and Beck were always steady, clearing most of the danger.

But one bit of danger that was not cleared came about two minutes after full-time. Danger man Dillsworth robbed Merrick, banged the ball across the middle and there was Bremer on the edge of the penalty area ready to thump it hard into the back of the net.

It was a beautiful shot that deserved a goal in any company, but when will Wycombe learn? This is exactly what happened at Sutton. With a slender lead and the

time running out, punch it out of the ground!

Wycombe—J. Maskell; P. Roystone, J. Beck; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; K. Samuels, S. Thompson, P. Bates, T. Horseman, L. Merrick.